

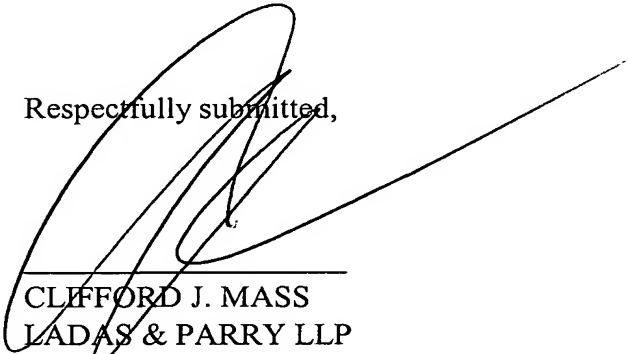
REMARKS

The Official Action of March 14, 2005 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete "thiourea" from the recited Markush group. This amendment is made to remove the basis for the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) appearing at paragraph 5 of the Official Action. Since the art cited at paragraph 5 does not show or suggest the claimed surface treatment with a treatment agent comprising any sulfur compound of the Markush group now recited, and since the rejection at paragraph 5 is the sole remaining rejection of record, it is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes the rejection and places the application into allowable form.

Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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